

**From:** Meiburg, Stan  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 10, 2016 6:46 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: Region 2 weekly update

Based on what I am reading, (b) (5)

Stan

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 10, 2016, at 6:16 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov> wrote:

Stan (b) (5)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Enck, Judith" <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>  
**Date:** January 8, 2016 at 6:56:28 PM EST  
**To:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Herckis, Arian" <Herckis.Arian@epa.gov>, "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Ragland, Micah" <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Scaggs, Ben" <Scaggs.Ben@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Region 2 weekly update

Compilation of non-responsive records

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PFOA. The region is spending a lot of time dealing with the PFOA contaminated public drinking water supply which serves 5,000 people in Hoosick Falls, a low income community on the NY/Vermont border. Today we met with St. Gobain Performance Plastics about the drinking water contamination issues. They have stepped up their schedule on installing carbon filtration on the water supply, but are still limiting families to only 5 gallons of bottled water a day. I am meeting with the Mayor of Hoosick Falls on January 14 and then speaking at a community meeting that evening at the local school. The next morning we are meeting with NYS DEC and NYS DOH.

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Purchia, Liz; Beauvais, Joel  
**Subject:** Albany times Union

# LeBrun: Shamless dodging in midst of Hoosick Falls water crisis

Fred LeBrun

Published 8:27 pm, Saturday, February 13, 2016

Finally, we sense a favorable turnaround for residents of Hoosick Falls, ignored victims for generations of dangerously tainted drinking water.

State government and its health and enforcement agencies have been finally shamed into acknowledging the severity of the potential consequences.

Now they are acting with an uncommon speed that such severity demands. Sad to say, sometimes it takes a media circus to get politicians to behave properly.

On Friday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the village will get \$10 million for charcoal filtration systems for private wells in the village that show toxic contamination with an ammonium salt of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), used in the manufacturing process of specialty plastics by a series of companies in Hoosick Falls since the early 1950s.



This is a TU+ story. Click for more information.

The state is advancing the money which it expects to recover from some of the responsible parties.

The day before, the Department of Environmental Conservation served notice to both Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, current owners of the facilities, and Honeywell that they are deemed among others as responsible parties, initiating consent orders that

should bring resources in terms of clean up, and perhaps more importantly, a new municipal water supply.

The current municipal system is heavily contaminated and off limits for drinking and cooking — and unsurprisingly is right next to Saint-Gobain's processing towers and stacks that spewed spent PFOA until about a decade ago.

How dumb is that, a community water supply right next to a plastics plant, still using chemistry in its manufacturing that may prove as toxic as PFOA.

So that's right at the top of remediation needed to make it right, and soon — finding a new source of municipal water that is not tainted, paid for by the responsible parties.

The good news is the area appears blessed with good systems of aquifers to tap into.

On Friday, Hoosick Falls high school students made a brilliant, emotional appeal to the governor for a new water system.

"How do you not get emotional when you've been drinking poisoned water for so many years?" asked high school senior Anna Wysocki.

And how do you not get livid at how the state Health Department patronized those justifiable concerns and all but dismissed the dangers of PFOA up until December when they got slapped up side the face by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

For a solid year, from a year ago January when the town physician, Dr. Marcus Martinez, called for shutting down the municipal water supply which had tested hot for PFOA, and December when EPA Region 2 director Judith Enck declared the tainted municipal water unfit to drink or use, the Health Department wallowed between incompetence and willful ignorance, maintaining the water was fine to drink and use without any health consequences.

Something you might expect from a third-world country.

When they recently had to begrudgingly acknowledge there might be a problem with the water and health, they tried to excuse the inexcusable by claiming PFOA was unregulated and its health consequences still unclear. A word on both those ridiculous dodges.

There are only a relative couple of handfuls of regulated toxic compounds among the tens of thousands used in industry that are known toxins and that kill or hurt you badly. You are just as dead whether it's regulated or not, and regulated is a political designation, not a scientific one. Industry lobbyists in Washington are quite successful in keeping regulated compounds to a minimum. If the Health Department only reacts to regulated toxins, they'll have lots of time on their hands for paperbacks.

As for the claim of questionable health consequences, that dodge is shameless. Since the C-8 peer reviewed scientific studies on PFOA were wrapped up in 2012, there has

been a staggering amount of verified information easily available on the health dangers of the chemistry, right down to probability tables for increased numbers of common and oddball cancers depending on the level of PFOA found in blood work.

Which means, of course, it is critical everyone who drank the water get their blood tested.

The practical use is with the C-8 tables available, physicians knowing the blood levels of their patients can keep an eagle eye out for sometimes difficult to diagnose cancers, and other consequences, such as compromised immune systems.

Which brings us to job 2 for proper remediation of the Hoosick Falls debacle.

Before widespread filtration systems are put in place it is critical there be a meeting of the minds among state and federal health officials on what the acceptable level of PFOA should be in the water. The current EPA designated of 100 parts per trillion or ppt is a whole lot better than the 50,000 ppt the Health Department was advocating, but not good enough.

New Jersey has it down to 40 ppt. But even at that level emerging research is showing that some vaccines in children, such as for tetanus and diphtheria, don't take. One scientist I know says 10 ppt would be a good political and scientific compromise.

Whatever it is, it is doable with current and affordable technology.

Charcoal filtration systems work extremely well with PFOA, at least until they clog and have to be cleaned.

The political response to the plight of Hoosick Falls has been depressingly predictable. The governor praising his health department and trying to deflect any hard look at how and why they screwed up. Senate Majority leader John Flanagan wants the problems fixed before any hearings on what went wrong. Why? What has one got to do with the other? The astounding aspect of Flanagan's reaction is that you hardly see the strings from his arms and flapping mouth attached to the governor's office.

Fortunately, two of the most respected members of the Assembly, Richard Gottfried and Steve Engelbright, will be holding hearings on statewide water quality in April, with an emphasis on Hoosick Falls.

We have high hopes for these hearings.

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 7:54 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan; Rupp, Mark; Beauvais, Joel; Jones, Jim; Stanislaus, Mathy; Burke, Thomas; Fritz, Matthew; Grantham, Nancy; Distefano, Nichole; Purchia, Liz  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls

Yes. That would be great.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2016, at 7:52 AM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

Judith it would be great to find time to have a call. Let's do that next week and we can have other engaged to ensure a coordinated response to the letter.

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 12:32 AM  
**To:** Meiburg, Stan <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>; Rupp, Mark <[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Rupp.Mark@epa.gov)>; Beauvais, Joel <[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov](mailto:Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov)>; Jones, Jim <[Jones.Jim@epa.gov](mailto:Jones.Jim@epa.gov)>; Stanislaus, Mathy <[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov](mailto:Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov)>; Burke, Thomas <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>; Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Distefano, Nichole <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>; Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls

Busy day on the pfoa issue. My meeting with the mayor went well. I pledged our cooperation and desire to help him fix the drinking water problem. We then had a very good 4 hour community meeting. 700 people attended in a community of about 5,000 people. I worked hard to have the state health dept join us on the panel. (b) (5)

We are meeting with dec and health dept in the morning. Happy to discuss in greater detail Judith

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2016, at 5:51 PM, Meiburg, Stan <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Judith, how did your meeting with the Mayor go today? And it will be interesting to hear how the community meeting goes tonight, as well as your scheduled meetings with New York State tomorrow, especially for any more insight on the letter and what they are looking for, (b) (5)

Tom, obviously your thoughts will be especially important on our view on the characterization of what "several studies have asserted".

And there are other Regions for who this letter will be relevant—Regions 3 and 4 I know from personal experience.

Stan

A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
MC-1102A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

**From:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 5:38 PM  
**To:** Rupp, Mark <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>; Beauvais, Joel <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>; Jones, Jim <Jones.Jim@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Beauvais, Joel <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls

Thanks Mark.

Joel, Jim, Mathy and Tom - this is an FYI. Can you start considering how best to respond while Stan figures out the best way to coordinate a discussion at HQ and with the Region 2 and perhaps other regions?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2016, at 5:20 PM, Rupp, Mark <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov> wrote:

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From: Alexander Cochran <alexander.cochran@exec.ny.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:31 PM  
Subject: Fw: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls  
To: Rupp, Mark <rupp.mark@epa.gov>

Mark  
Happy new year!  
Here's a PFOA letter based on what's going on up in NYS.

Judith has also.

A

ALEXANDER

Alexander Cochran, Special Counsel to the Governor  
202.434.7100

<McCarthy.DEC\_DOH.ltr.Jan.14\_2016.pdf>





**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**Department  
of Health**

January 14, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
USEPA Headquarters  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to you to request that EPA take vigorous action to address the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water and groundwater. Respectfully, we ask that EPA:

- lower its provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA drinking water to take into account the most current scientific evidence;
- act expeditiously to adopt a protective maximum contaminant level for PFOA;
- expeditiously list PFOA as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated groundwater and other media; and
- review the remaining uses of PFOA under the Toxic Substances Control Act and curtail it whenever less toxic alternatives are available.

The New York State Department of Health has been working with the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Hoosick for more than a year to address PFOA contamination of drinking water. PFOA in the Village of Hoosick Falls public water supply exceeds the provisional EPA health advisory of 400 ppt. Private wells in the Town of Hoosick have also shown signs of contamination, but at lower levels than in the municipal supply. The Department of Health, the Village, and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics have collaborated to evaluate treatment options for the Village water supply, implement a bottled water program, and design and order a temporary treatment system to be installed in the coming weeks on the Village water supply. This temporary treatment system will remain in place until a planned permanent treatment system is operational later this year.

We write to you because this is not just a local issue. The presence of PFOA in drinking water is an emerging nation-wide issue.



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**Department  
of Health**

As reported in the New York Times Magazine on January 10, 2016, several studies have asserted that the presence of PFOA in drinking water and groundwater may be more pervasive than originally thought and may subject people across the country to PFOA exposure since EPA first began working on this issue in 2001.

It is imperative that the federal government step forward and use the authority it already holds under federal law to comprehensively address this national issue. The State of New York stands ready to assist EPA in any way we can in this important effort to protect public health and the environment from PFOA.

Sincerely,

*Howard Zucker M.D.*

Dr. Howard Zucker  
Commissioner  
DOH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Seggos".

Basil Seggos  
Acting Commissioner  
DEC

**From:** Meiburg, Stan  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 3:47 PM  
**To:** Spalding, Curt  
**Cc:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel  
**Subject:** Re: Weekly Up date

Curt, are things going OK with the Corps on this? Just asking.

Stan

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2016, at 3:42 PM, Spalding, Curt <[Spalding.Curt@epa.gov](mailto:Spalding.Curt@epa.gov)> wrote:

Two Items of Significant Regional Importance:

**Northeast Corridor Future Rail line:**

By January 30, the Region will be submitting comments to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Tier 1 DEIS for the NEC FUTURE project. NEC FUTURE is a comprehensive planning effort to define, evaluate, and prioritize future investments in the Northeast Corridor (NEC), from Washington, D.C. to Boston. The NEC is shared by intercity, commuter, and freight operations and moves more than 365 million passengers and 14 million car-miles of freight per year. NEC FUTURE will create a framework for the future investments needed to improve passenger rail capacity and service through 2040 in the 457-mile project corridor. The geographic scope of the project spans EPA R1, R2, and R3. EPA R1 will be the lead Region for NEPA purposes. The project is the subject of great interest throughout the entire project corridor and the FRA has conducted an extensive state, federal and local outreach program to date. While expressing strong support for the need to rigorously plan for the of the Northeast rail corridor, we expect to make comments on the DEIS addressing the need to collect data and other information necessary to evaluate wetlands and aquatic impacts, water quality, air quality, climate change, alternatives and mitigation. So far there's been very modest media interest in NEC Future. The interest may build as the project moves to completion before the end of the Obama term.

**Central and Western Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Sites Rulemaking:**

By February 10, EPA will propose amendments to the 2005 site designation rule to incorporate "procedures and standards" that are consistent with (or possibly more stringent than) those recommended in the Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP). To resolve objections to those site designations raised by New York state, the 2005 rule required the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop a DMMP that will help reduce or eliminate open-water disposal of dredged material. The LIS DMMP identifies a wide range of alternatives to open-water disposal and recommends procedures and standards for determining which alternatives to pursue for different dredging projects. The 2005 rule also requires EPA to propose amendments to that rule within 60 days and finalize an amended rule within 120 days of completion of the LIS DMMP. This week the USACE published the completed DMMP plan in the Federal Register. With the clock now ticking, EPA intends to propose its amended rule by February 10, 2016 and finalize the rule by May 9, 2016. This week we held a meeting informing

the States of the go-forward plan on site designations. Most notable was the attendance of the NYS Governor's Office. In addition, a letter writing campaign to Governor Cuomo supporting the site designations has been initiated by LIS marine trades interests. Connecticut and interested Rhode Island Congressional staffs were briefed today. Congressional and media interest in this issue remains high.

Curt Spalding  
Regional Administrator  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109  
617-918-1012

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 6:41 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel; Burke, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Grantham, Nancy; Southerland, Elizabeth; Grevatt, Peter  
**Subject:** Fwd: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

This is good. We will all work together on the clean up. Judith

**Subject: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS**

Judith- as discussed. Thanks, Basil



**For Immediate Release: 1/27/2016**  
State of New York | Executive Chamber  
Andrew M. Cuomo | Governor

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**

**GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS**

***Emergency regulation issued to classify PFOA as a hazardous substance; Saint-Gobain facility to be classified as a State Superfund Site to unlock state resources and legal remedy to address contamination***

***State will conduct Health Risk Analysis to establish PFOA drinking water guidance level; retest private wells in the village of Hoosick Falls; and immediately install filtration systems at school and other community gathering places***

***State hotline (1-800-801-8092) established to help public stay informed***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a series of immediate actions by New York State to address contamination in the Village of Hoosick Falls' water supply and at the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Site. These announcements follow today's meeting between the Governor and senior state and local officials.

"We are taking immediate and aggressive actions to protect the health of Hoosick Falls residents," **said Governor Cuomo**. "These actions will ensure that the source and extent of PFOA contamination is identified, and all necessary steps are taken to swiftly address the chemical's presence. My administration is investigating this situation fully, and we will do whatever is necessary to ensure safe, clean drinking water for local

residents.”

These actions include to:

- **Issue Emergency Regulation to Classify PFOA as Hazardous Substance:**

The state Department of Environmental Conservation today issued an emergency regulation to classify Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the contaminant found in the Village’s water supply, as a hazardous substance. This provides DEC with the legal authority to pursue State Superfund designation and cleanup of the site using State Superfund resources.

- **Classify Saint-Gobain Facility as a State Superfund Site to Unlock State Resources to Address Contamination:**

Further, the state announced it will classify the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation McCaffrey Street Plant and other possible sources of contamination that may be identified in Hoosick Falls as State Superfund sites to unlock state funding resources under the State Superfund Program to address the contamination in the community. DEC has already initiated its investigation and inspected the Saint-Gobain property. If in the course of its continuing investigation DEC finds any additional sources of PFOA contamination, they will also be listed. The Superfund Class 2 designation will allow the state to use State Superfund resources to investigate and clean up PFOA contamination much more quickly than waiting for a federal Superfund designation. In addition, the state will be able to seek cost recovery for the investigation and cleanup activities. DEC will collaborate closely with EPA in the investigation of PFOA in groundwater, soil and other media in Hoosick Falls to determine appropriate cleanup activities.

- **Conduct Health Risk Analysis to Establish PFOA Drinking Water**

**Guidance Level:** To address the water supply contamination, the state Department of Health will conduct a risk analysis, examining the latest national research, to establish a drinking water guidance level for PFOA.

- **Retest Private Wells in the Village of Hoosick Falls:** In addition, the state Department of Health will retest 24 private wells in the vicinity of the Saint-Gobain facility.

- **Immediately Install Filtration Systems at School and Other Community Gathering Places:** Out of an abundance of caution, the state committed to installing water filtration systems at the local school, public health facilities and other community gathering places.

- **Blood Testing of Community Members to Begin in Mid-February:**

Beginning in mid-February, DOH will begin blood testing for community members for those who wish to be tested.

- **Establish State Hotline for Public to Stay Informed:** Residents can contact **1-800-801-8092** for more information.

Further, once PFOA contamination is addressed, the state committed to work with the community and banks to safeguard property values.

**Department of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos**

**said:** “Under the direction of Governor Cuomo, New York State is working collaboratively with all levels of government from the EPA to the village and town, to address the contamination in Hoosick Falls. Classifying PFOA as a hazardous substance and making the Saint-Gobain site a State Superfund site will free up resources to investigate and clean up the contamination quickly. We will continue our

open dialogue with local officials and the people of Hoosick Falls to ensure they are informed throughout our investigation and remediation.”

**Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said:** “The actions taken today by Governor Cuomo, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health will safeguard the residents of Hoosick Falls and help address their concerns. The Department of Health will continue to test private wells, and will soon begin a blood testing program to measure residents’ exposure to PFOA. Additionally, DOH will continue to examine the latest and best scientific research to establish a drinking water guidance level for PFOA.”

**Senator Kathy Marchione said:** “I want to personally thank Governor Cuomo for convening this afternoon’s highly productive and positive meeting regarding Hoosick Falls. The announcement that the state recognizes the seriousness of this issue and is taking purposeful action that will help Hoosick Falls families is welcome news. Our discussion today focused on realistic solutions including the state’s regulation of PFOAs, testing of all local wells, blood testing and carbon filtration systems to help protect the health and well-being of families in Hoosick Falls. The positive steps agreed to today are welcome news for the community. I have been carefully monitoring this situation and will continue advocating for Hoosick Falls families as this process moves forward.”

**Town of Hoosick Supervisor Mark Surdam said:** “I am thankful for the Governor’s recognition of the problem our community is facing with its water supply, and for the actions the state taking today. I want to assure all of the residents in the Town of Hoosick that we are undergoing a tremendous effort to deal with these concerns.”

**Village of Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge said:** “I am grateful for Governor Cuomo’s swift action to help our community quickly restore the use of our water supply – and am pleased by the level of coordination by state agencies responding to this issue. This is a major step forward for all residents of the greater Hoosick Falls community.”

**Hoosick Falls Central School Superintendent Kenneth Facin said:** “Today’s meeting with Governor Cuomo was productive and meaningful, and promises real results for our students and parents. We are appreciative to be a part of a singular, concerted effort to rectify the environmental issues surrounding our water supply. As a proactive measure to ensure the health and safety of our students, the state is assisting our school district with the installment of a carbon filtration system. We are grateful for the Governor’s leadership in galvanizing resources to assist our community.”

#### **State’s Earlier Actions to Address PFOA Contamination**

Today’s actions build upon DEC and DOH’s initiatives announced earlier this month to address the PFOA contamination to protect public health and the environment. The state urged EPA to take vigorous action on the federal level to regulate PFOA and to quickly add the Hoosick Falls site to the Superfund National Priorities List. The state, Saint-Gobain and the Village are collaboratively working on an agreement to install water treatment systems to remove hazardous chemicals from the Village’s water supply. In addition, DOH is undertaking a cancer registry study to investigate the incidence of cancer among Village residents and biomonitoring studies. Further DOH is offering PFOA biomonitoring to measure the level of PFOA in Village residents.

PFOA was detected in the Village's public drinking water in 2014. Since then, DOH has worked closely with the Village to provide technical advice and assistance for water sampling and to evaluate water treatment options to eliminate health risks. Because the levels of PFOA in public water were higher than the EPA health advisory level, DOH determined that people should reduce their exposure by avoiding the use of tap water for drinking and cooking. In addition, DOH continues to monitor private wells and will have more results very soon.

Although the use of PFOA is being phased out, it is still used to make household and commercial products that resist heat, and repel oil, stains, grease, and water. This includes nonstick cookware, surface coatings for stain-resistant carpets and fabric, and paper and cardboard food packaging. Studies of people have associated exposure to PFOA with an increased risk for several health effects. This includes associations with effects on the liver, immune system, thyroid gland, cholesterol levels, blood pressure during pregnancy, and kidney and testicular cancer.

###

Additional news available at [www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov)  
New York State | Executive Chamber | [press.office@exec.ny.gov](mailto:press.office@exec.ny.gov) | 518.474.8418



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**To:** Enck, Judith; Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel; Burke, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Grantham, Nancy; Southerland, Elizabeth; Grevatt, Peter  
**Subject:** RE: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

Very encouraging—nice work!

Stan

*A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
MC-1102A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460*

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 6:41 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>; Meiburg, Stan <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Beauvais, Joel <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>; Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>; Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Southerland, Elizabeth <Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Grevatt, Peter <Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

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Judith- as discussed. Thanks, Basil



**Built to Lead**

**For Immediate Release: 1/27/2016**  
State of New York | Executive Chamber  
Andrew M. Cuomo | Governor

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**

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- **Classify Saint-Gobain Facility as a State Superfund Site to Unlock State Resources to Address Contamination:**

Further, the state announced it will classify the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation McCaffrey Street Plant and other possible sources of contamination that may be identified in Hoosick Falls as State Superfund sites to unlock state funding resources under the State Superfund Program to address the contamination in the community. DEC has already initiated its investigation and inspected the Saint-Gobain property. If in the course of its continuing investigation DEC finds any additional sources of PFOA contamination, they will also be listed. The Superfund Class 2 designation will allow the state to use State Superfund resources to investigate and clean up PFOA contamination much more quickly than waiting for a federal Superfund designation. In addition, the state will be able to seek cost recovery for the investigation and cleanup activities. DEC will collaborate closely with EPA in the investigation of PFOA in groundwater, soil and other media in Hoosick Falls to determine appropriate cleanup activities.

- **Conduct Health Risk Analysis to Establish PFOA Drinking Water Guidance Level:**

To address the water supply contamination, the state Department of Health will conduct a risk analysis, examining the latest national research, to establish a drinking water guidance level for PFOA.

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In addition, the state Department of Health will retest 24 private wells in the vicinity of the Saint-Gobain facility.

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**Department of Environmental Conservation Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos said:** “Under the direction of Governor Cuomo, New York State is working collaboratively with all levels of government from the EPA to the village and town, to address the contamination in Hoosick Falls. Classifying PFOA as a hazardous substance and making the Saint-Gobain site a State Superfund site will free up resources to investigate and clean up the contamination quickly. We will continue our open dialogue with local officials and the people of Hoosick Falls to ensure they are informed throughout our investigation and remediation.”

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**From:** Burke, Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:45 PM  
**To:** Enck, Judith  
**Cc:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel; Purchia, Liz; Grantham, Nancy; Southerland, Elizabeth; Grevatt, Peter  
**Subject:** Re: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

Great progress. Well done Judith.

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Jan 27, 2016, at 6:41 PM, Enck, Judith <[Enck.Judith@epa.gov](mailto:Enck.Judith@epa.gov)> wrote:

This is good. We will all work together on the clean up. Judith

**Subject: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS**

Judith- as discussed. Thanks, Basil

<1A305516.jpg>

**For Immediate Release: 1/27/2016**  
State of New York | Executive Chamber  
Andrew M. Cuomo | Governor

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M.**

**GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS**

***Emergency regulation issued to classify PFOA as a hazardous substance; Saint-Gobain facility to be classified as a State Superfund Site to unlock state resources and legal remedy to address contamination***

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"We are taking immediate and aggressive actions to protect the health of Hoosick Falls residents," **said Governor Cuomo.** "These actions will ensure that the source and extent of PFOA contamination is identified, and all necessary steps are taken to swiftly address the chemical's presence. My administration is investigating this situation fully, and we will do whatever is necessary to ensure safe, clean drinking water for local residents."

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**From:** Burke, Thomas  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:46 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan; Enck, Judith; Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel; Purchia, Liz; Grantham, Nancy; Southerland, Elizabeth; Grevatt, Peter  
**Subject:** Re: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

Yes, absolutely.

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
202-564-6620  
[burke.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:burke.thomas@epa.gov)

On Jan 27, 2016, at 7:44 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

This is the kind of response that reminds me of what states can and should do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2016, at 4:42 PM, Meiburg, Stan <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Very encouraging—nice work!

Stan

*A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
MC-1102A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460*

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 6:41 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>; Meiburg, Stan <[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov](mailto:Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov)>; Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Beauvais, Joel <[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov](mailto:Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov)>; Burke, Thomas <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>; Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Southerland, Elizabeth <[Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Southerland.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>; Grevatt, Peter <[Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES IMMEDIATE STATE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTAMINATION IN HOOSICK FALLS

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**For Immediate Release: 1/27/2016**

State of New York | Executive Chamber  
Andrew M. Cuomo | Governor

**GOVERNOR ANDR**

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518.474.8418

**From:** McCabe, Catherine  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 4:59 PM  
**To:** Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Garbow, Avi; Herckis, Arian; Purchia, Liz; Ragland, Micah; Grantham, Nancy; Distefano, Nichole; Pieh, Lusen; Rupp, Mark; Scaggs, Ben; Vaught, Laura; Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** R2 RA Weekly Report

Weekly Report from Region 2 (Catherine McCabe, DRA)

- [REDACTED] non-responsive compilation of records [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- Village of Hoosick Falls, New York (PFOA contamination of public water supply)
  - We expect to begin field sampling work the week of Feb. 22, to investigate the potential sources of the PFOA contamination of the Village's water supply
  - State of New York DOH and DEC are mobilizing to begin State Superfund investigation and response, and information outreach to residents. We are coordinating plans and activities, working cooperatively.
  - Temporary water supply
    - Bottled water available for residents at local grocery store (St. Gobain paying)
    - Temporary water filter being installed on public water supply – expected to be operational in next few weeks. (St Gobain paying)
    - Permanent water filter expected to be installed by Oct. 2016. (St Gobain will pay)
  - Private wells – NYSDOH will sample for PFOA; also, Honeywell has offered to do some private well sampling (they own another facility in the area)
  - Press interest continues
    - Numerous press articles – see clips
    - Region 2 has 7 pending FOIA's, 1 from AP -- we are collecting responsive documents, not released yet
    - Request received today from WNYT TV for on-camera taped interview week -- we declined (citing RA's absence)
    - St. Gobain is calling attention to a Dec. 2014 letter to EPA (TSCA Information Center) giving notice of PFOA detected in Village wells -- (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
    - [REDACTED] (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - Congressional interest – we received a letter from Sen. Gillibrand and are preparing a response. Sen Schumer is also following this situation.
- [REDACTED] non-responsive compilation of records [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** McCabe, Catherine  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 5:07 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** RE: R2 RA Weekly Report

Absolutely!

**From:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 5:05 PM  
**To:** McCabe, Catherine <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Garbow, Avi <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>; Herckis, Arian <Herckis.Arian@epa.gov>; Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; Ragland, Micah <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Pieh, Luseni <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>; Rupp, Mark <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>; Scaggs, Ben <Scaggs.Ben@epa.gov>; Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: R2 RA Weekly Report

Catherine I know you are aware of this but please make sure to coordinate with HQ on all Hoosic Falls inquiries. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

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  - Private wells – NYSDOH will sample for PFOA; also, Honeywell has offered to do some private well sampling (they own another facility in the area)
  - Press interest continues
    - Numerous press articles – see clips
    - Region 2 has 7 pending FOIA's, 1 from AP -- we are collecting responsive documents, not released yet
    - Request received today from WNYT TV for on-camera taped interview week -- we declined (citing RA's absence)



- St. Gobain is calling attention to a Dec. 2014 letter to EPA (TSCA Information Center) giving notice of PFOA detected in Village wells - (b) (5).

[REDACTED]

- Congressional interest – we received a letter from Sen. Gillibrand and are preparing a response. Sen Schumer is also following this situation.

- non-responsive compilation of records

[REDACTED]

**From:** Stanislaus, Mathy  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2016 12:59 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Grantham, Nancy; Rupp, Mark; Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Garbow, Avi; Scaggs, Ben; Ragland, Micah  
**Cc:** Breen, Barry; Natarajan, Nitin  
**Subject:** Weekly

non-responsive compilation of records

PFOA/Hoosick Falls (NY) - OLEM coordinated with the Office of Water to help prepare a response to a letter from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDH) requesting EPA action on several issues related to PFOA. One of those issues involved a request that EPA regulatorily list PFOA as a CERCLA "hazardous substance." (b) (5)

The NYSDH letter was written in the context of the PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls. The State has also asked EPA to add the site to the NPL, and Region 2 is working with them on that request. Currently, the Region is doing removal assessments and expects that it is likely that removal work will be carried out.

non-responsive compilation of records

## Administrator

It has not gone out yet - Joel sent a note to a few of us that he wanted to walk through it before it was sent.

On Feb 7, 2016, at 11:27 AM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Mathy. Can you please share the response letter to NY on PFOA? (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 6, 2016, at 12:59 PM, Stanislaus, Mathy <[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov](mailto:Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov)> wrote:

non-responsive compilation of records

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Mathy Stanislaus  
USEPA Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management  
Follow us on Twitter @EPALand

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 9:17 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Meiburg, Stan; Beauvais, Joel; Burke, Thomas; Fritz, Matthew; Purchia, Liz  
**Subject:** NY.Gov: Governor Cuomo Announces Planning for an Alternate Water Supply in the Village of Hoosick Falls

<http://on.ny.gov/1Va96Fk>

Greetings from Costa Rica. I return home Tomorrow. Some good news from New York State today. Judith

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** Re: Albany times Union

Heading in to the office and will call

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2016, at 11:19 AM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

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## LeBrun: Shamless dodging in midst of Hoosick Falls water crisis

Fred LeBrun

Published 8:27 pm, Saturday, February 13, 2016

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in the village that show toxic contamination with an ammonium salt of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), used in the manufacturing process of specialty plastics by a series of companies in Hoosick Falls since the early 1950s.



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"How do you not get emotional when you've been drinking poisoned water for so many years?" asked high school senior Anna Wysocki.

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For a solid year, from a year ago January when the town physician, Dr. Marcus Martinez, called for shutting down the municipal water supply which had tested hot for PFOA, and December when EPA Region 2 director Judith Enck declared the tainted municipal water unfit to drink or use, the Health Department wallowed between incompetence and willful ignorance, maintaining the water was fine to drink and use without any health consequences. Something you might expect from a third-world country. When they recently had to begrudgingly acknowledge there might be a problem with the water and health, they tried to excuse the inexcusable by claiming PFOA was unregulated and its health consequences still unclear. A word on both those ridiculous dodges.

There are only a relative couple of handfuls of regulated toxic compounds among the tens of thousands used in industry that are known toxins and that kill or hurt you badly. You are just as dead whether it's regulated or not, and regulated is a political designation, not a scientific one. Industry lobbyists in Washington are quite successful in keeping regulated compounds to a minimum. If the Health Department only reacts to regulated toxins, they'll have lots of time on their hands for paperbacks.

As for the claim of questionable health consequences, that dodge is shameless. Since the C-8 peer reviewed scientific studies on PFOA were wrapped up in 2012, there has been a staggering amount of verified information easily available on the health dangers of the chemistry, right down to probability tables for increased numbers of common and oddball cancers depending on the level of PFOA found in blood work.



Which means, of course, it is critical everyone who drank the water get their blood tested.

The practical use is with the C-8 tables available, physicians knowing the blood levels of their patients can keep an eagle eye out for sometimes difficult to diagnose cancers, and other consequences, such as compromised immune systems.

Which brings us to job 2 for proper remediation of the Hoosick Falls debacle.

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We have high hopes for these hearings.

**From:** Meiburg, Stan  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 11:41 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Subject:** Re: Albany times Union

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Stan

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 14, 2016, at 11:26 AM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

Wish me luck when I talk to her.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Enck, Judith" <[Enck.Judith@epa.gov](mailto:Enck.Judith@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 14, 2016 at 11:24:52 AM EST  
**To:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Albany times Union

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**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 1:13 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** RE: Albany times Union

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**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Garbow, Avi; Herckis, Arian; Purchia, Liz; Ragland, Micah; Grantham, Nancy; Distefano, Nichole; Pieh, Lusen; Rupp, Mark; Scaggs, Ben; Vaught, Laura  
**Subject:** region 2 weekly report

(b) (5)

Hoosick Falls: On Friday Governor Cuomo announced \$10 million in state dollars (Potentially to be recouped from PRPs) to install carbon water filters in individual homes and possible new water supply wells. The new wells can't be drilled until we know the extent of the pfoa plume. We are working closely with NY DEC on work sharing. Extensive public interest continues and extensive media coverage.

non-responsive compilation of records

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 2:31 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** RE: Albany times Union

Sure. I fly to Puerto Rico and leave for the airport at about 12:30. *I can call you late morning if that is good for you. Cheers, Judith*

**From:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 14, 2016 2:24 PM  
**To:** Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Albany times Union

Sorry. Got caught up with family stuff. Would tomorrow morning work?

Sent from my iPhone

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 6:26 AM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Subject:** Re: region 2 weekly report

Thanks. Appreciate it. Onward!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 15, 2016, at 10:22 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks Judith. (b) (5), (b) (6)

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On Feb 14, 2016, at 2:29 PM, Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov> wrote:

non-responsive compilation of records

Hoosick Falls: On Friday Governor Cuomo announced \$10 million in state dollars (Potentially to be recouped from PRPs) to install carbon water filters in individual homes and possible new water supply wells. The new wells can't be drilled until we know the extent of the pfoa plume. We are working closely with NY DEC on work sharing. Extensive public interest continues and extensive media coverage.

non-responsive compilation of records

non-responsive compilation of records  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** McCabe, Catherine  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:42 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew; Enck, Judith; Purchia, Liz; Grantham, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Call today with Gov. Cuomo

Administrator – Judith asked me to prepare the bullets below, in case they are helpful for your call today with Gov. Cuomo. I’m sending them directly, as I hear that the call may be in a few minutes.

- (b) (5)  
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**From:** Rupp, Mark  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew; Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Beauvais, Joel; Grantham, Nancy; Distefano, Nichole; Purchia, Liz  
**Cc:** Enck, Judith  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fw: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls  
**Attachments:** McCarthy.DEC\_DOH.ltr.Jan.14\_2016.pdf

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From: Alexander Cochran <[alexander.cochran@exec.ny.gov](mailto:alexander.cochran@exec.ny.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:31 PM  
Subject: Fw: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls  
To: Rupp, Mark <[rupp.mark@epa.gov](mailto:rupp.mark@epa.gov)>

Mark  
Happy new year!  
Here's a PFOA letter based on what's going on up in NYS.

Judith has also.

A

ALEXANDER

Alexander Cochran, Special Counsel to the Governor  
202.434.7100





**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**Department  
of Health**

January 14, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
USEPA Headquarters  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to you to request that EPA take vigorous action to address the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water and groundwater. Respectfully, we ask that EPA:

- lower its provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA drinking water to take into account the most current scientific evidence;
- act expeditiously to adopt a protective maximum contaminant level for PFOA;
- expeditiously list PFOA as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated groundwater and other media; and
- review the remaining uses of PFOA under the Toxic Substances Control Act and curtail it whenever less toxic alternatives are available.

The New York State Department of Health has been working with the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Hoosick for more than a year to address PFOA contamination of drinking water. PFOA in the Village of Hoosick Falls public water supply exceeds the provisional EPA health advisory of 400 ppt. Private wells in the Town of Hoosick have also shown signs of contamination, but at lower levels than in the municipal supply. The Department of Health, the Village, and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics have collaborated to evaluate treatment options for the Village water supply, implement a bottled water program, and design and order a temporary treatment system to be installed in the coming weeks on the Village water supply. This temporary treatment system will remain in place until a planned permanent treatment system is operational later this year.

We write to you because this is not just a local issue. The presence of PFOA in drinking water is an emerging nation-wide issue.



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

**Department  
of Health**

As reported in the New York Times Magazine on January 10, 2016, several studies have asserted that the presence of PFOA in drinking water and groundwater may be more pervasive than originally thought and may subject people across the country to PFOA exposure since EPA first began working on this issue in 2001.

It is imperative that the federal government step forward and use the authority it already holds under federal law to comprehensively address this national issue. The State of New York stands ready to assist EPA in any way we can in this important effort to protect public health and the environment from PFOA.

Sincerely,

*Howard Zucker M.D.*

Dr. Howard Zucker  
Commissioner  
DOH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Basil Seggos".

Basil Seggos  
Acting Commissioner  
DEC

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:51 PM  
**To:** Fritz, Matthew; Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Beauvais, Joel; Burke, Thomas  
**Subject:** RE: Tom Burke

R2 sent this statement to the WSJ

PFOA is an emerging contaminant that is still being studied. That is why the EPA is using the best science to develop a lifetime health advisory level for PFOA, which the agency expects to release in spring 2016. Lifetime health advisories serve as guidance and are benchmarks for determining if concentrations of chemicals in tap water from public utilities are safe for public consumption. They provide state, local and tribal governments with non-regulatory guidance to make decisions on a local basis in cases where a chemical is not federally regulated. When issued, the lifetime health advisory for PFOA will supersede the provisional health advisory of 400 parts per trillion for PFOA issued in 2009.

In the most recent EPA report on PFOA toxicity, which underwent independent external peer review in August 2014, the agency identified a toxicity value that would result in a lifetime health advisory level of 100 parts per trillion. Health advisories are not released until final, but in response to concerns about PFOA levels in drinking water in Hoosick Falls, NY, EPA decided to share the best available science to protect public health. While finalization of the health advisories continues, out of an abundance of caution EPA recommends that people in Hoosick Falls, NY not use water where PFOA has been found to be present at a level greater than 100 parts per trillion for drinking or cooking, and instead use bottled water. However, EPA emphasizes that we have not finalized 100 parts per trillion as the lifetime health advisory for PFOA.

More here: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination>

**From:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:46 PM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tom Burke

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** February 18, 2016 at 5:37:44 PM EST  
**To:** "Fritz, Matthew" <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Burke, Thomas" <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>, "Beauvais, Joel" <[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov](mailto:Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tom Burke

Looks like Cuomo talked about PFOA in a press conference and the WSJ is asking the WH. (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2016, at 4:02 PM, Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)> wrote:

We were on the phone together the first time you tried him.

-----Original Message-----

From: Adm13McCarthy, Gina

Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 4:06 PM

To: Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>

Subject: Tom Burke

We spoke and I am all set for now. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 6:06 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew; Beauvais, Joel; Burke, Thomas  
**Subject:** Re: Tom Burke

(b) (5)

The Journal called R2 and asked for info on the PFOA in Hoosick.

Matt, Joel and I are talking about it now.

Liz Purchia  
U.S. EPA  
202-564-6691  
202-841-2230

On Feb 18, 2016, at 6:02 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 18, 2016, at 4:51 PM, Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

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been found to be present at a level greater than 100 parts per trillion for drinking or cooking, and instead use bottled water. However, EPA emphasizes that we have not finalized 100 parts per trillion as the lifetime health advisory for PFOA.

More here: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination>

**From:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:46 PM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tom Burke

FYI

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**Date:** February 18, 2016 at 5:37:44 PM EST  
**To:** "Fritz, Matthew" <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Burke, Thomas" <[Burke.Thomas@epa.gov](mailto:Burke.Thomas@epa.gov)>, "Beauvais, Joel" <[Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov](mailto:Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tom Burke

Looks like Cuomo talked about PFOA in a press conference and the WSJ is asking the WH. (b) (5)

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We were on the phone together the first time you tried him.

-----Original Message-----

From: Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 4:06 PM  
To: Fritz, Matthew <[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov)>  
Subject: Tom Burke

We spoke and I am all set for now. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:58 PM  
**To:** Distefano, Nichole; Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: Hoosick Falls Briefing Request

FYI

Class-Action Lawsuit Filed Over Chemical in NY Village Water  
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. — Feb 24, 2016, 12:02 PM ET

A New York City law firm has filed a federal class-action suit against two companies identified by state regulators as potentially responsible for toxic chemical contamination in an upstate village's water supply. The lawsuit filed Wednesday accuses Honeywell International and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics of negligence for the Teflon-related chemical PFOA in Hoosick Falls' water. The suit seeks unspecified monetary damages. The lawsuit was filed by Weitz & Luxenberg. Erin Brockovich is a consumer advocate working with the firm. She met with residents in January after the Environmental Protection Agency against drinking tap water. Saint-Gobain is providing free bottled water while a new village filtration system is being installed. A Honeywell spokeswoman says the company hasn't seen the suit but is cooperating with the state investigation. Saint-Gobain had no initial comment.

**From:** Distefano, Nichole  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 11:43 PM  
**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hoosick Falls Briefing Request

Happy to chat. I think I've got the general gist from your download on the call with the Gov. but I'll ask Kate to connect us tomorrow when you have a free 5 min.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 9:42 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

You may want to have me or Stan fill you in more.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 8:24 PM, Distefano, Nichole <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

Got it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 9:18 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina <[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

The state has stepped up and I don't want them being left out. They should be playing the lead role with us supporting.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 8:15 PM, Distefano, Nichole  
<[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

Good point. I'll follow up with Judith tomorrow. It

(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 9:12 PM, Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
<[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2016, at 5:23 PM, Distefano,  
Nichole <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)>  
wrote:

Administrator

I wanted to make you aware of an inquiry region 2 has received on Hoosick Falls. Judith has been asked by Sen. Schumer for a briefing on Hoosick Falls to occur sometime tomorrow, in preparation for a call he has with the CEO of Saint Gobain (the company that may be the source of the PFOA). (b) (5)



(b) (5)

I will also  
participate in any call  
they have.

Please let me know if  
you have any additional  
thoughts. Happy to chat  
later tonight after you  
land.

Nichole Distefano  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Congressional  
and Intergovernmental  
Relations  
Environmental  
Protection Agency  
(202) 564-5200  
[Distefano.Nichole@epa](mailto:Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov)  
[.gov](mailto:Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov)

**From:** Enck, Judith  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 12:32 AM  
**To:** Meiburg, Stan  
**Cc:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Rupp, Mark; Beauvais, Joel; Jones, Jim; Stanislaus, Mathy; Burke, Thomas; Fritz, Matthew; Grantham, Nancy; Distefano, Nichole; Purchia, Liz  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls

Busy day on the pfoa issue. My meeting with the mayor went well. I pledged our cooperation and desire to help him fix the drinking water problem. We then had a very good 4 hour community meeting. 700 people attended in a community of about 5,000 people. I worked hard to have the state health dept join us on the panel. (b) (5)

We are meeting with dec and health dept in the morning. Happy to discuss in greater detail Judith

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2016, at 5:51 PM, Meiburg, Stan <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov> wrote:

Judith, how did your meeting with the Mayor go today? And it will be interesting to hear how the community meeting goes tonight, as well as your scheduled meetings with New York State tomorrow, especially for any more insight on the letter and what they are looking for, especially the framing of this as "an emerging nation wide issue".

Tom, obviously your thoughts will be especially important on our view on the characterization of what "several studies have asserted".

And there are other Regions for who this letter will be relevant—Regions 3 and 4 I know from personal experience.

Stan

*A. Stanley Meiburg, Ph.D.  
Acting Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
MC-1102A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460*

**From:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 5:38 PM  
**To:** Rupp, Mark <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>; Beauvais, Joel <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>; Jones, Jim <Jones.Jim@epa.gov>; Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Burke, Thomas <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Meiburg, Stan <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Beauvais, Joel <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>; Purchia, Liz <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>; Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls

Thanks Mark.

Joel, Jim, Mathy and Tom - this is an FYI. Can you start considering how best to respond while Stan figures out the best way to coordinate a discussion at HQ and with the Region 2 and perhaps other regions?

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2016, at 5:20 PM, Rupp, Mark <[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Rupp.Mark@epa.gov)> wrote:

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From: Alexander Cochran <[alexander.cochran@exec.ny.gov](mailto:alexander.cochran@exec.ny.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:31 PM  
Subject: Fw: Letter from Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos Re: Hoosick Falls  
To: Rupp, Mark <[rupp.mark@epa.gov](mailto:rupp.mark@epa.gov)>

Mark  
Happy new year!  
Here's a PFOA letter based on what's going on up in NYS.

Judith has also.

A

ALEXANDER

Alexander Cochran, Special Counsel to the Governor  
[202.434.7100](tel:202.434.7100)

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